

R. H. VANCE, Editor.

Clarksville, Tenn., Sept. 5, 1885.

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MR. CABLE AND THE NEGRO.

Mr. George W. Cable's promised paper, "The Silent South" appears in the Century Magazine for September. It is an answer to the attacks made on his "Frederick's Case in Equity," by Mr. Henry Grady, of Atlanta, Mr. James Phelan, of Memphis, Mr. Henry Watterson, and other representative Southerners.

Mr. Cable is a citizen of New Orleans, an ex-Confederate soldier, and claims to be in full sympathy with the South; but his ideas on some questions are very widely different from those entertained by the great mass of white people in this section.

As a literary man, Mr. Cable has reached a higher level than that attained by any Southerner of the present day. His genius in this particular was first recognized at the North, and that populous and cultivated section has furnished the best market for his works.

It is no answer to argument to accuse an opponent of selfish motives, but those who disagree with Mr. Cable think that these facts to a great extent account for his adoption of Northern sentiments in regard to Southern affairs.

The first indication of these kind of ideas having taken possession of Mr. Cable occurred in his novel, "Dr. Reckless," in which he exclaims, while speaking of a body of Federal soldiers in 1863, "March on, soldiers of the Union! Your cause is just; we of the South are willing to admit that now." Some of the protests that followed showed that "we of the South" were not altogether unanimous in any such admission.

But what placed Mr. Cable in open opposition to prevalent Southern sentiment, was his paper published in the Century some months ago entitled "The Freedman's Case in Equity," in which he argued that all racial distinctions should be abolished and the negro received in all public places and in the same churches and schools on perfect equality with the whites. This raised a storm of opposition, and "The Silent South" is a reply to his critics.

Mr. Cable draws a distinction between "civil rights" and "social choice." He argues that it is silly to speak of "social intermingling," "social equality," etc., as being in any way the same thing as such a mixing of the races as he proposes. This is true if we limit the word "social" to that narrow sense which applies to the home circle and the right to such companionship as persons may select for themselves, but after all, terminology has nothing to do with the matter. It makes no difference whether this intermingling be "social" or "civil," there is nevertheless a strong feeling against it on the part of the whites that can't be reasoned away.

If you come to abstract reasoning it would be difficult to show cause why the mixed offspring of marriages between negroes and whites should not be as well received as the descendants of Pocahontas, but all the logic at Mr. Cable's command will not induce the white people of the South, nor those of the North, to act on such a theory. You may call it prejudice if you like, but it has an actual and potential existence—this repugnance on the part of the whites to mingling with negroes, and it would precipitate a chaotic state of society to try to enforce such a thing.

The mixing of negro and white children in the public schools would simply destroy those valuable institutions. The white people would not patronize them and would not tax themselves for their support.

We believe the one church plan would be more irksome to the negro than the white man. The negro preacher, who is a very numerous and very important percentage, would find his occupation gone. The perpetual revival plan would have to be abandoned by the blacks, and those wild orgies in which they delight could be practiced no more.

The race problem is one that time must solve, and the advancement of such ideas as those Mr. Cable possesses won't help it along.

The American has set up a straw party in Tennessee which it has dubbed "Independent," and which it never wearies of fighting. It goes to the extent of asserting that this dummy party of its own creation has the support of a large number of newspapers in the State. We know of only two newspapers of any consequence in Tennessee that profess to be "Independent"—the Nashville Banner and the Lebanon Herald. Is it these two papers against whom the American directs all of its missiles? It always quotes the word Independent as if it was borrowed from the papers to which it alludes. Does the American know of any Independent paper in Tennessee except those mentioned, or is it simply lying for effect?

The Chronicle recently gave a list of four papers that favored the one convention idea and forty that proposed to stick to the old way and the good way. There were two mistakes in the list. The Maury Democrat was put down among the forty and the Springfield Record among the four. Their positions should have been reversed. The Johnson City Comet, The Brownsville States and Bee, The Trenton Herald, The Sparta Express, and the Woodbury Courier can all be added to the list that want two conventions.

It is funny to see the State Democratic Conventions reaffirming the tariff section of the National Democratic platform, and then protective and free trade Democrats shaking hands and hugging over at the dawn of a Christmas morning. "Nations Rejoice! Protective Democrats! Why Johnny, we thought your super amount of 'moral stamina' carried you into the Republican party because there was no room for a man of protective ideas in the fold of Democracy.

Dr. Leonard, prohibition candidate for Governor of Ohio, was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Conference which assembled in Cincinnati Thursday.

The American and some of the few papers that follow its fanatical, uncompromising line, have been crowded on the negro question. This may have been done in some instances, but the great majority of the papers that have so severely criticised the American have put its position fairly.

It has been generally stated, and is generally understood, that the American wants a commission established to compel the railroads to give the negroes separate accommodations equal to those provided for the whites.

The American went into this position by first advocating the appointment of Ed. Shaw as Surveyor of Customs at Memphis. That is, it thus began an attempt to capture the negro vote, and followed it by assuring the negroes that they are deprived of their rights under the law on railroad trains, and proposing the commission, spoken of above, as a remedy.

This doctrine has long been the tactics of the Republican party. John Sherman made it the key-note of his speech the other day opening the Ohio campaign. It was the import of Jim Blaine's fiery declaration at Augusta, immediately after the election last Fall. Such utterances from Republican politicians have never pleased the Southern people, and we fail to see why they should be any more palatable coming from the Nashville American.

But taking the American's position in the abstract without any reference to the offensive manner in which it was broached, it is open to strong objection. Create this commission to compel the railroads to divide up their parlor cars and sleepers between the negroes and the whites, and in the very nature of things the same segregation must be applied to the cabin of the steamboat. An easy gradation will carry it to the dress circle of the theater, and the commission will finally become another Freedman's Bureau, and its duties will be to enforce the civil rights bill.

The objection to the American's position is that it has put the race issue in politics.

Secretary Manning was recently interviewed by a reporter of the Iron Age in regard to the position of the administration on the tariff question. He said the Chicago platform would be its guide in this particular. The construction he puts on the Chicago platform can be gathered from the following extract from the interview:

Correspondent—I presume the tariff question will be reopened?

The Secretary—I think it will be. The Democratic party in its platform is pledged to a revision of the tariff. It adds, "in the spirit of fairness to all interests." The tariff of the nation must be preserved inviolate. Therefore, whatever is done on the tariff by way of revision should be done cautiously and by conservative methods. In reducing taxes we must not ignore the interests of domestic industries. The customs being the chief source of revenue must be relied on for that purpose, and any radical measure might seriously cripple the financial condition of the government.

Correspondent—Some industries rely upon absolute private legislation.

The Secretary—That is true, and therefore the tariff laws are of the highest importance. The interests of labor and capital alike must be considered.

Correspondent—Great stress is laid on limiting taxation to the requirements of the government economically.

The Secretary—That is the doctrine of the platform, but then in an explanatory clause it says that the reduction must be made without depriving American labor of the opportunity of competing with foreign labor, and without imposing lower rates of duty than would be sufficient to cover the additional cost of production due to higher wages here.

Correspondent—That would impose big changes in existing statutes.

The Secretary—That is to be expected. I have not yet examined the details. Going back to the platform, the tariff is to be lowered to the level of our home industries, home interests, home labor and home capital. The tariff is a difficult subject to adjust when you undertake to reconcile all interests. It resolves itself into a simple question of the greatest good for the greatest number.

ABOUT TWO CONVENTIONS.

The desire for one convention instead of two next year seems very general in East Tennessee. It is admitted in the Journal, McMinnville News, in that section—American.

That is positively not true. We don't exchange with any large number of east Tennessee papers but we know some that haven't taken any such position, and, in our opinion, the Democratic party in that section of the State is not in any way divided on this question.

In attempting to give a list of the papers throughout the State that favor the one convention idea the American named the following:

Knoxville Tribune, Clarksville Democrat, Maury Democrat, Franklin Review, Johnson City Comet, Lebanon Herald, Bristol Courier, Bolivar Bulletin, Gallatin Tennesseean, Gainesboro Transit, Troy News Era, Lynchburg Enterprise, Nashville American (we believe) the Shelbyville Gazette and the Carthage Mirror.

The Clarksville Democrat and the Shelbyville Gazette have both expressed the opinion that the one convention is the only way to secure the Union and the Union will be won in accordance with Senator Sherman's key-note it will disgust many members of that party so that they will stay away from the polls. Sectionalism was buried in General Grant's grave. Why at the recent grand army re-union ex-Confederates were present by special invitation. The people of Ohio consider the war over, and if the Republicans could only get the old war on, they would beat them certain. Other Democrats take the same strain. They do not conceal their gratification at what they consider a blunder on the part of the Republican leaders of Ohio and Iowa.

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